Department of Health & Human Services
Office of the National Coordinator for
Health Information Technology

ONC and HITECH: An Update

David R. Hunt, MD, FACS
Medical Director, Office of Provider Adoption & Support
Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT

Section 3001: The National Coordinator shall develop infrastructure that …

(1) **ensures** that each patient's health information is **secure** …

(2) **improves** health care **quality**, reduces medical errors, reduces health disparities…

(3) **reduces** health care **costs** …

(4) **provides appropriate information**…

(5) **ensures** the inclusion of meaningful **public input**…

(6) **improves** the **coordination** of care…

(7) **improves public health** activities…

(8) **facilitates health** and clinical **research** and health care **quality** ;…"

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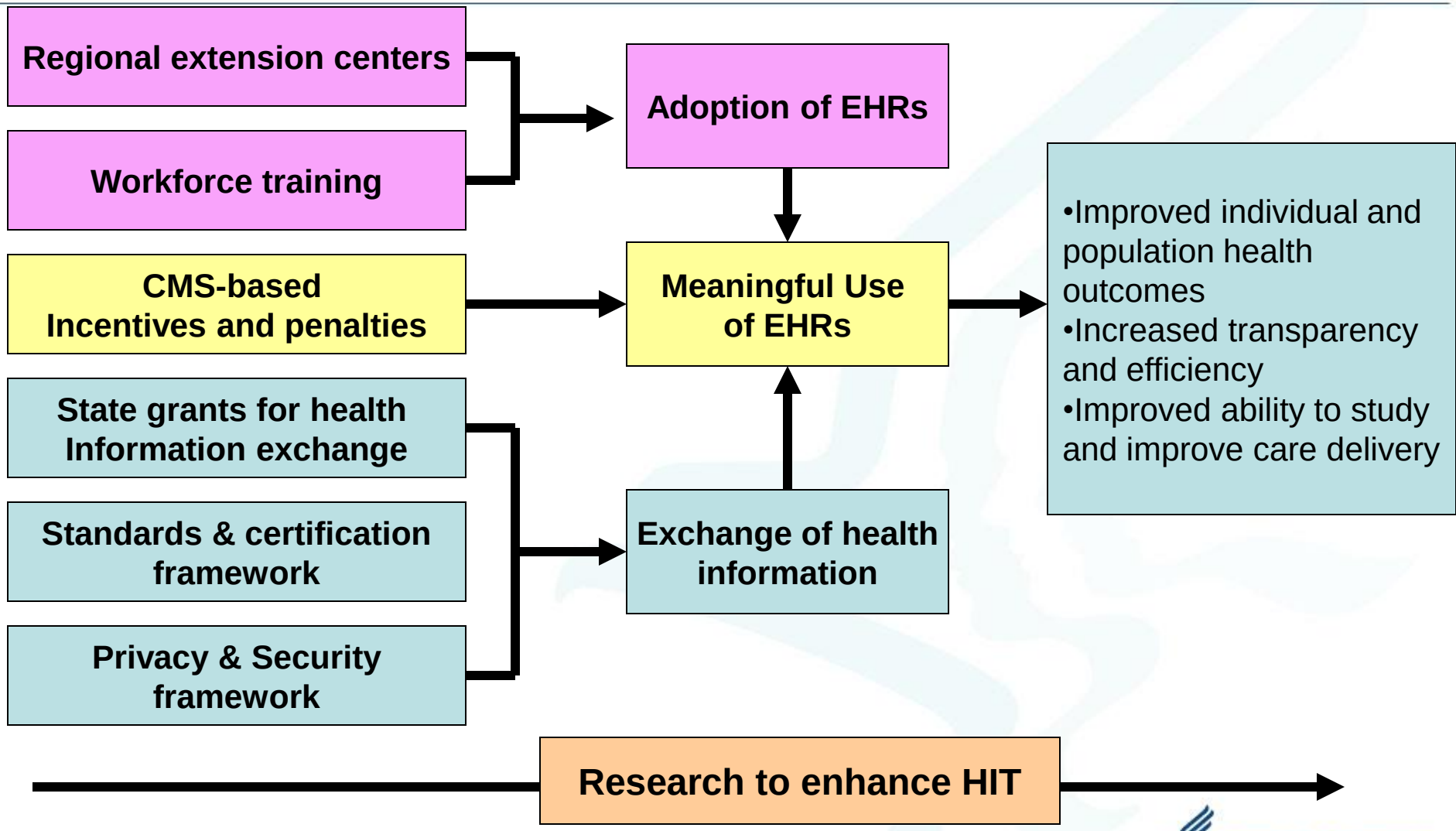
HITECH Act

- **Define Meaningful Use**
- **Support Attainment of Meaningful Use**
- **Establish Public Trust**
- **Foster Health IT Innovation**


Regional extension centers
Workforce training
CMS-based Incentives and penalties
State grants for health Information exchange
Standards & certification framework
Privacy & Security framework
Adoption of EHRs
Meaningful Use of EHRs
Exchange of health information
•Improved individual and population health outcomes
•Increased transparency and efficiency
•Improved ability to study and improve care delivery
Research to enhance HIT

SHARP – Strategic Health IT Advanced Research Projects

- $60 million program
- Four year awards, in the form of cooperative agreements
- Eligibility
  - Institutions of higher learning
  - Public / Private entities with a research mission

SHARP Research

- **Security of Health IT**:
  - Security: U Illinois: Urbana-Champaign (Gunter)
- **Cognitive Support**:
  - U Texas-Houston (Zhang)
- **Healthcare Application and Network Platform Architectures**:
  - Harvard University (Kohane)
- **Secondary Use of EHR Data**:
  - Mayo Clinic (Chute)

IFR: Standards, Implementation Specifications, and Certification Criteria for EHR

"**Nothing required by this interim final rule should be construed as affecting existing legal requirements under other Federal laws.** While the capabilities provided by Certified EHR Technology may assist in the compliance with certain legal requirements, they do not in any way remove or alter those requirements…

4.(a) Additional Considerations, Clarifications, and Requests for Public Comments: Relationship to Other Federal Laws; Page 2039
http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/E9-31216.htm

Beacon Community Program

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15 Beacon Communities Announced

On May 4, Vice President Biden and Secretary Sebelius announced the awarding of $220 million to 15 Beacon Communities across the U.S. The Beacon Communities will create model programs to demonstrate widespread adoption of health IT and health information exchange to improve the delivery of care for all Americans. An additional $30.3 M is currently available. View Beacon funding opportunity announcement (FOA).

Press Release | Watch the announcement
More information about Beacon communities

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Why Health IT?

Department of Health & Human Services
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Beacon Communities

- *Community Services Council: Tulsa, OK*
- *Delta Health Alliance, Inc.: Stoneville, MS*
- *Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems: Brewer, ME*
- *Geisinger Clinic: Danville, PA*
- *HealthInsight: Salt Lake City, UT*
- *Indiana Health Information Exchange: Indianapolis, IN*
- *Inland Northwest Health Services: Spokane, WA*
- *Mayo Clinic Rochester, Rochester, MN*
- *Rhode Island Quality Institute, Prov., RI*
- *Rocky Mountain HMO, Grand Junction, CO*
- *Southern Piedmont Comm. Care Plan: Concord, NC*
- *The Regents of the UCSD: San Diego, CA*
- *University of Hawaii at Hilo, Hilo, HI*
- *Western New York Clinical Information Exchange, Inc., Buffalo, NY*
- *Louisiana Public Health Institute: New Orleans, LA*

Regional Extension Center Program

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HHS Announces $267 Million for New Health IT Regional Extension Centers

Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced on April 6th that more than $267 million was awarded to 28 additional non-profit organizations to establish Health IT Regional Extension Centers (RECs). The Recovery Act investment will help grow the emerging health IT industry which is expected to support tens of thousands of jobs.

- Read the full press release
- Learn about the RECs and view a list of all grant recipients

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Why Health IT?

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Standards & Certification IFR

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Standards & Certification Criteria IFR

Providers and patients must be confident that the electronic health information technology (health IT) products and systems they use are secure, can maintain data confidentiality, can work with other systems to share information, and can perform a set of well-defined functions. To this end, an **Interim Final Rule (IFR)** on an initial set of standards, implementation specifications, and certification criteria for adoption by the HHS Secretary was issued on December 30, 2009, with a request for comments. This Interim Final Rule represents the first step in an incremental approach to adopting standards, implementation specifications, and certification criteria to enhance the interoperability, functionality, utility, and security of health IT and to support its meaningful use. The certification criteria adopted in this initial set establish the required capabilities and related standards that certified electronic health record (EHR) technology will need to include in order to, at a minimum, support the achievement of the proposed meaningful use Stage 1 (beginning in 2011) by eligible professionals and eligible hospitals under the Medicare and Medicaid EHR incentive programs.

Learn more about the IFR

- Standards & Certification Interim Final Rule: Initial Set of Standards, Implementation Specifications, and Certification Criteria for Electronic Health Record Technology [PDF - 247 KB]
- Public Comment period closed on March 15, 2010.
- Standards & Certification IFR Facts-at-a-Glance [PDF - 371 KB]
- Standards & Certification IFR Frequently Asked Questions

Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Daniel Boone (1734-1820)

"I've never been lost…

…but I will admit to being confused for several weeks."

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http://healthit.hhs.gov

davidr.hunt@hhs.gov